

Message Text

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15

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 MMS-03 NEA-11 EA-11

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R 041300Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5978

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCEUR

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCPAC

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L TANANARIVE 0142

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MA, US, UK, XO

SUBJ: DIEGO GARCIA EXPANSION: CRITICAL EDITORIAL OPINION

1. FIRST NOTEWORTHY EDITORIAL COMMENT SINCE NEW PHASE ANGLO-AMERICAN NEGOTIATIONS OVER DIEGO GARCIA BEGAN WAS CARRIED IN FEB 3 ISSUE OF WIDELY READ JESUIT LEFT-OF-CENTER WEEKLY "LUMIERE". DESPITE FREQUENT CARPING AT GOVT, LUMIERE HAS PROBABLY COME VERY CLOSE TO WHAT OFFICIAL THINKING WILL BE. GOMR, WHICH PUBLICLY SUPPORTS SRI LANKA'S I.O. ZONE OF PEACE CONCEPT, HOWEVER, HAS REFRAINED IN PAST FROM MAKING OFFICIAL DEMARCHES OF TANZANIAN KIND AS REGARDS RECENT U.S. NAVAL TASK FORCES, AND IT IS PREMATURE TO PREDICT WHETHER OR NOT IT WILL DO SO ONCE NOTIFIED OF EXPANSION U.S. FACILITIES AT DIEGO GARCIA.

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2. BEGIN UNCLAS: FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS LUMIERE EDITORIAL:
RUMORS HAVE CIRCULATED OVER PAST FEW YEARS CONCERNING PENTAGON
INTENTIONS TO REINFORCE DIEGO GARCIA INSTALLATION BY CREATING
A REAL AERO-NAVAL BASE. OFFICIAL DENIALS FOOL NOBODY, AND THE
AFFAIR IS BEGINNING ALL OVER AGAIN NOW WITH THE PROBABLE REOP-
ENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL AND THE EXPANSION HEREABOUTS OF SOVIET
FLEET. AT PRESENT TIME, WASHINGTON FINDS FEW HOSPITABLE HAVENS
ALONG SHORES IN THIS PART OF WORLD. HOWEVER DIEGO GARCIA RE-
MAINS, AND SECRET NEGOTIATIONS SEEM TO BE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN
DOWNING STREET AND WHITE HOUSE. OFFICIAL COMMENTARIES SPEAK
OF DIFFICULTIES ARISING OUT OF AMERICAN AND ENGLISH DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS REGARDING JEWISH OR ARAB STATES. ALSO POSSIBLE FINAN-
CIAL CONGRESSIONAL VETO IS SPOKEN OF. BUT NO REFERENCE IS MADE
TO POSSIBLE REACTIONS OF RIPARIAN STATES, EITHER OF THOSE ALONG
THE COASTS OR OF THOSE IN OCEAN ITSELF SUCH AS MADAGASCAR AND
THE MASCARENES. ONCE MORE, AMERICAN DIPLOMACY CONSIDERS THE
OPINION OF COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD TO BE INSIGNIFICANT.
BUT THAT IS AN ATTITUDE WHICH SOME DAY "DEAR HENRY" COULD VERY
MUCH REGRET. END UNCLAS.
MENDENHALL

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